

**SATRC Workshop on Recent Trends and Technologies**

20 – 22 September 2022, Dhulikhel, Nepal

**CONCEPT NOTE**

1. **Background**

The 22nd Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators’ Council (SATRC-22) held virtually/online from 1 to 3 November 2021 approved the SATRC Action Plan Phase VIII for the implementation period of 2022-2023. SATRC Action Plan consists of three basic activities: working groups, capacity building and web portal. SATRC Workshops are held as part of activities under capacity building with the objective of developing the capacity of human resources of the regulators of SATRC Members.

1. **Objectives**

The SATRC Workshop on Recent Trends and Technologies will be held as part of implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase VIII. The emphasis of the Workshop will be on recent trends and technologies for providing connectivity and encouraging innovation towards smart digital society. The objective of the workshop will be to give an in-depth analysis on various trends in innovation and technologies for proving connectivity including technical details, policy and regulatory aspects and other aspects. A number of eminent experts and speakers will be invited to conduct the workshop.

1. **Expected Participation**

The SATRC Workshop on Recent Trends and Technologies will be targeted for senior and mid-level officers of the SATRC Members who are involved in the work of related areas. It is expected that the experts of the SATRC Working Groups will also attend the workshop. Further, relevant experts from industry are also welcomed to participate at the workshop.

1. **Expected outcomes**
* Enhanced understanding of the SATRC Members on recent trends in innovation and technologies for providing connectivity and their future implications in the policy and regulation
* Enhanced cooperation among SATRC Members to address the challenging issues related to those in a collective manner
* Discussion will provide guideline to SATRC Working Groups to develop tangible outcomes on the work items during the implementation of SATRC Plan Phase VIII.
1. **Timing and location**

The SATRC Workshop on Recent Trends and Technologies will be held from 20 to 22 September 2022 in Dhulikhel, Nepal. It will be hosted by Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA). Details are provided in Information for Participants.

1. **Contact**

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1. **Tentative Draft Programme**

The tentative programme of SATRC Workshop on Recent Trend and Technologies is provided in Annex A.

**Annex A**

**Tentative Draft Programme**

**SATRC Workshop on Recent Trends and Technologies**

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| **Time** | **Tuesday, 20 September 2022** |
| 09:00 – 10:00 | Registration |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | **Opening** * Welcome Address by Asia-Pacific Telecommunity
* Welcome Address by NTA
* Inaugural Address by dignitary from Nepal

(Group Photograph) |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | **Coffee/Tea Break** |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | **Session 1 – *Overview of the SATRC and the Workshop**** Overview of the activities of SATRC, SATRC Action Plan Phase VIII and details the SATRC Workshop on Recent Trends and Technologies
* Keynote presentation “Universal and meaningful digital connectivity – The role of the policy makers and regulators”
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| 12:00 – 14:00 | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | **Session 2 –** ***Requirements and Challenges for Implementation of 5G***This session will focus on the requirements and implementation challenges for enhanced mobile broadband specially the wider technological, infrastructural and investment challenges. The issues associated the implementation of 5G, including services and applications will be addressed in the session with a way forward. SATRC Members who have already deployed commercial 5G will share their experiences.  |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | **Coffee Break** |
| 15:45 – 17:15 | **Session 3 –** ***Requirements and Challenges for Implementation of 5G (continued)***Continue from the previous session.  |
| **Time** | **Wednesday, 21 September 2022** |
| 9:30 – 11:00 | **Session 4 – *New Technologies for Delivering Connectivity until the Last Mile: Satellite Technologies*** This session will focus on the new technologies and trends for delivering required connectivity options until the last mile. It will include recent technological development of high throughput satellites, LEO satellites, HAPS etc. Regulatory aspects and challenges of these technologies will be addressed.  |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | **Coffee** **Break** |
| 11:15 – 12:45 | **Session 5 – *New Technologies for Delivering Connectivity until the Last Mile: Satellite Technologies (continued)***Continue from the previous session.  |
| 12:45 – 14:00 | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | **Session 6 – *New Technologies for Delivering Connectivity until the Last Mile: Wi-Fi and other Access Technologies***Wi-Fi is a cornerstone of the world’s connectivity and data needs. Wi-Fi is an essential technology for billions of people across the world. Today, Wi-Fi-enabled connectivity is a fundamental infrastructure for a digital society. This session will provide an overview of the latest generation of Wi-Fi technology, future development and deployment scenario. It will explore the issue of how latest Wi-Fi technologies can complement the existing services, such as 5G and Satellite. It will also look into a number of policy and regulatory issues related to Wi-Fi.  |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | **Coffee/Tea Break** |
| 15:45 – 17:15 | **Session 7** –  ***Leveraging Emerging Technologies: Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning***The opportunities to use emerging technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) is growing at a breakneck pace. Across the Asia-Pacific region these are being used to address the SDGs by creating access to connectivity, financial inclusion, education and more. Blockchain is a viable technology to make the network secure, private and efficient. Blockchain solutions are increasingly being explored, given their inherent characteristics of engendering trust and transparency and user control all key factors for various digital services management including management of digital ID systems. AI/ML is complementing blockchain providing wider potential for Industry 4.0. The sessions will look into the aspect of how blockchain, AI and ML can be used for the betterment of delivering ICT services in the era of digital society. Also, current status of digital ID implementation in SATRC Member countries will be addressed.  |
| **Time** | **Thursday, 22 September 2021** |
| 9:30 – 11:00 | **Session 8 – *Leveraging Emerging Technologies: Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning***Continue from the previous session.  |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | **Coffee/Tea Break** |
| 11:15 – 12:15 | **Session 9** ***– Digital Ethics and Personal Data Protection***Digital ethics and personal data protection are topics that are receiving more and more attention from both private individuals as well as associations and government organizations. For good reason, people are increasingly concerned about how their personal data is being used by public and private sector organizations. This session will focus how policy makers, regulators and industry proactively address the concerns and are able to **earn their consumers’ trust.** The best practices that have been following to meet the criteria for digital ethics and personal data protection will be shared. |
| 12:15 – 12:45 | **Session 10** – ***Summary of Conclusions and Closing**** Summary of the sessions
* Closing
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| 12:45 – 14:00 | **Lunch** |
| 14:00 – 17:00 | **Local site visit** |